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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 MCT-01 /042 W
----------113275 090750Z /11
R 081222Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7967
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, TC
SUBJ: NEW PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR UAE NAMED

1. UAE PRESS REPORTED ARRIVAL IN ABU DHABI JUNE 7 OF RIBHI AWWAD TO REPLACE RIBHI HALLOUM AS DIRECTOR OF PLO OFFICE IN UAE. HALLOUM IS VARIOUSLY REPORTED BY PRESS TO HAVE RESIGNED OR TO HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO BE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN ANOTHER, UNNAMED COUNTRY.

2. COMMENT: HALLOUM'S RESIGNATION OR TRANSFER AFTER ONLY A FEW MONTHS IN THE UAE IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. OUR GUESS IS THAT HE MAY HAVE MADE HIMSELF UNPOPULAR WITH UAE LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIVELY HIGH PROFILE AND HIS PAST LINKS WITH PLO TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES. WE UNDERSTAND HE MAY HAVE GENERATED SOME BAD VIBES WITHIN THE RESIDENT PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY AS WELL FOR PUTTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THEM TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS AND MANPOWER TO THE PLO
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FORCES IN LEBANON AT THE TIME OF THE ISRAELI INVASION LAST MARCH.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS HALLOUM'S SUCCESSOR, RIBHI AWWAD, IS A MEMBER OF FATAH "REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" AND SERVED FORMERLY IN CAIRO AS FATAH REPRESENTATIVE WITH TITLE OF "REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE" BEFORE JOING PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IN BEIRUT. ANY ADDITIONAL IN-FORMATION ACTION ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE US ON AWWAD OR THE REASON

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FOR HALLOUM'S TRANSFER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. POSTSCRIPT: AWWAD'S ARRIVAL IN ABU DHABI COINCIDES WITH VISIT HERE BY ZUHAIR MUHSIN, CHIEF OF PLO'S MILITARY DEPARTMENT, WHO HAS MET INTER ALIA WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN RASHID AND WITH RULER OF SHARJAH SHAIKH SULTAN. LATTER, WHO RECEIVED AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, MENTIONED TO US HIS CONCERN ABOUT ILLICIT INTERNAL ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS WITHIN EMIRATES, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE PALESTINIANS HAD FORMERLY USED SHARJAH FOR CLANDESTINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES BUT THAT THESE HAD NOW BEEN STOPPED SINCE UAE TIGHTENED UP ON ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO PALESTINIANS.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABUDH01638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0162
Format: TEL
From: ABU DHABI
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2445114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR UAE NAMED
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, TC, (AWWAD, RIBHI)
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63c4cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014